Textile Sector. The Scheme is applicable to all States. Under the Scheme, 25% capital subsidy, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20.00 lakh per project is permissible for purchase of new machinery and equipments for upgradation of technology for pre-loom, on-loom, post-loom & quality control activities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per the guidelines for the Scheme, the project proposals will be directly received by the Weavers' Service Centre concerned from the beneficiary organizations. After due verification and scrutiny of the proposal, the project will be submitted to the Zonal Director of the Weavers' Service Centre concerned, who is the chairman of the Project Appraisal Committee. The Committee with its recommendations will submit the project to the office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom for approval. Enquiries about TUF Scheme have been received. However, so far, office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has not received any proposal duly recommended by Project Appraisal Committee and therefore, the financial assistance released under the Scheme, as on date, is nil.

(e) Under the Scheme, the capital subsidy can be availed by existing handloom units having a minimum 10 handlooms housed in a common workshed. The Scheme can also be availed by new organisations, which propose to set up a unit with at least 10 handlooms at one place in a common workshed. The Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies, Apex Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies, State Handloom Corporations, National Level Handloom Organisations, NGOs/SHGs etc. are eligible to avail the assistance under the Scheme.

Effect of post quota regime on rural textile industry

97. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rural textile Industries are unable to compete with the bigger players in textile sector after phasing out of quota system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have framed any new policies/schemes to promote rural textile industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure the livelihood of rural artisans especially women workers and to develop their skill to secure alternative jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bigger players in the textile industries are the powerlooms and mills sector. The rural textile industries, which consist mainly handloom sector, have been facing stiff competition from powerloom and mill sectors in terms of technology, production capacity and price even after phasing out of quota system.

(c) and (d) The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has already been implementing the following develc pmental and skill upgradation schemes and programmes to promote the handloom textile industry:—

(i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.

(ii) Handloom Export Scheme.

(iii) Marketing Promotion Programme.

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme.

(v) Integrated Handloom Training Programme.

(vi) Design Development & Training Programme.

Besides, the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has also introduced some new Schemes/programmes, *viz.*, Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, Handloom Mark, Opening up of 273 new Yarn Depots and Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for the Handloom Sector.

(e) As per Handloom Census 1995-96, out of 65 lakh handloom weavers in the country, about 60% are women weavers. The benefits under the above schemes, which are developmental and skill upgradation schemes, percolates down to the handloom weavers including women weavers.

MSP to cotton growers

98. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: